



MATTHEWS APPEARANCE & TREE BOARD

23 February-2015 Meeting Minutes Matthews Community Center

Present: Brian Allio, Dianne Thomas, Ram Kamath, Carol Buie-Jackson and Ralph Ramsaur

Call to Order: Chairman Brian Allio called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Minutes: There was no January 2015 meeting. Note: The February meeting was originally scheduled for February 16th but rescheduled to the 23rd due to inclement weather.

Old Business:

Celebration Tree Program – No new requests since last meeting. In the future, the tree markers will include the Town's logo and the Town of Matthews Celebration Tree Program name so people would know that these trees were part of this Program. This request was made at the September 2014 meeting.

New Business:

Ralph shared that the Town has been awarded Tree City USA for the 15th year in a row. All agreed this was exceptional and encouraged the Town to promote this achievement.

Ralph and Carol represented the Appearance and Tree Board at the Joint Council meeting earlier this month. Carol did an excellent job updating everyone.

Arbor Day is April 17, 2015. The annual celebration will take place around noon at Matthews Elementary School. Carol shared that a request had been made to consider a different school the following year such as Crownpoint Elementary. Carol will contact Lee Anne with the Town to let her know our plans so she can inform Matthews Elementary that we may use another site in 2016 and see if there are any issues or concerns regarding this matter before we reach out to Crownpoint. If there are no issues or concerns, then Carol will reach out to Commissioner John Ross and ask him to speak with his school contacts at Crownpoint to see if they would have an interest in attending this year's event to better understand expectations should they agree to host the event in 2016. The board also agreed to reach out to Elizabeth Lane at some point to see if they would have an interest in hosting one year. All agreed it was a good idea to allow all of the Matthew based elementary schools the opportunity to participate if interested.

The annual cleaning and greening is April 18, 2015 from 8 am – 10 am. Individuals and groups will have until noon to finish their assigned area. The Appearance and Tree Board will reach out to various groups to recruit volunteers. Brian will reach out to the students at Butler High School. Ram will reach out to Boy Scout Troop 190. Ralph will provide a tent, table, chairs and equipment for volunteers.

Dianne suggested that we invite the Town's new PR person Jen Thompson to the March meeting so she can learn about our initiatives and promote the upcoming Cleaning and Greening. The board would like to see quarterly postings about our various events, initiatives, etc. Ralph will invite Jen.

Ralph requested the group approve two willow oak trees as Living Legacy Trees. They are both located in front of Matthews Elementary School. Carol made the motion which the board unanimously approved to have the two trees recognized as Living Legacy Trees.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

